

REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Amended:</b>             | 1, 3, 5 7-15, 17        |
| <b>Currently Canceled:</b>  | 4, 16                   |
| <b>Previously Canceled:</b> | 6, 18, 19               |
| <b>New:</b>                 | 20-24                   |
| <b>Pending:</b>             | 1-3, 5, 7-15, 17, 20-25 |

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Support for the amendments is either apparent, or is as described in the text below.

The amendments to claims 7 and 10 correct dependencies in view of claim cancelations. Claims 8, 10 and 13 are amended as supported by the stitching found in **Fig. 1**. Claims 5, 12 and 15 are amended to focus on more favorable handle sizes, as supported for example at p. 5. The remainder of the dependent claims are amended merely to conform to changes made for clarity in claim 1. Claim 1 is amended primarily to make even more clear the relationship of the parts. For example, to function as a handle, the fixed loop must be on the outside of the adjustable loop. The handle was previously recited as near the fixed attachment point, and the current amendment seeks to make it clearer that this is attached to a segment of the first strap that is near to and attached to the fixed attachment point. The fastener is fastened by threading, as previously recited – but the current amendment makes clear that fastening consists essentially of a threading mechanism, and thus not a two-part detachable mechanism. The new claims are supported, for example, at **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 2**.

It should be noted that the "first" and "second" recitations are purely arbitrary naming conventions to help distinguish antecedents. In fact, the "second" strap segment can be a stitched

loop from the "first strap" segment, but is distinguished as being part of the handle. It should also be noted that "top" and "bottom" in claims 8, 10 and 13 are relative.

**Claim Objections**

The objection to claim 16 is resolved by its deletion. The objection to claim 5 is believed to be in error or reflect a typographical error. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no error in the dependency of claim 5.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

**Hatfield – US 5,005,527**

Claims 1-4 and 7 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), based on an assertion of anticipation by Hatfield, US 5,005,527. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Hatfield does not have a handle adjacent to the fixed connection of Hatfield's buckle. In fact, moving the Hatfield handle to a position more like that called out in the current claims would make the Hatfield inappropriate for its intended use as a pet leash. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

**Miller – US 5,581,853**

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), based on an assertion of anticipation by Miller, US 5,581,853. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Miller describes a device for restraining a prisoner in transit. Its loop of strap 18 is separated from the adjustable loop by two buckle or ratcheting devices. That loop is used to control the tension on cam buckle locking clip 16. Miller does not have a handle adjacent to the fixed connection of its buckle. In fact, moving the Miller handle to a position more like that called out in the current claims would make the Miller inappropriate for its intended use as a prisoner restraint. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

**Hatfield – US 5,005,527**

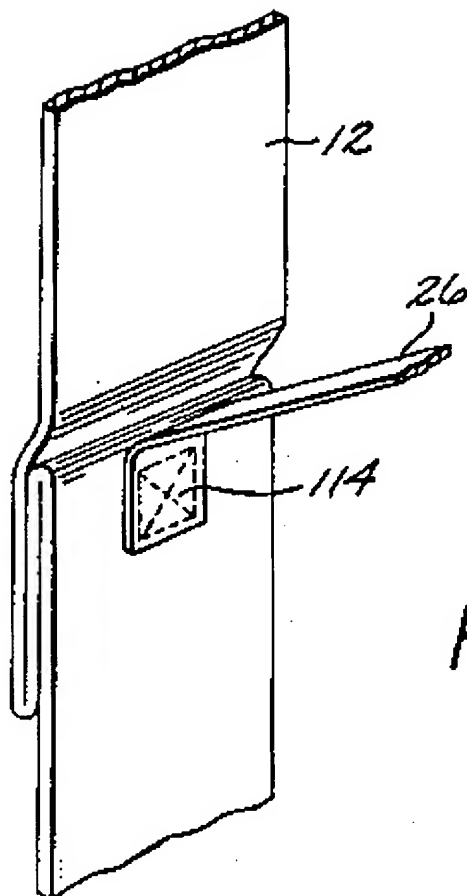
Claims 5, 16 and 17 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Hatfield, US 5,005,527. Applicant respectfully traverses.

As discussed above, moving the Hatfield handle to a position more like that called out in the current claims would make the Hatfield inappropriate for its intended use as a pet leash. As outlined in MPEP §2143.01, a proposed modification of the prior art cannot render it unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, as would this modification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

**Hatfield, with Kim (US 4,971,354) or Decathlon SA, (FR 2,744,997)**

Claims 8-15 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Hatfield in view of either Kim, US 4,971,354 or Decathlon SA, FR 2,744,997. Applicant respectfully traverses.

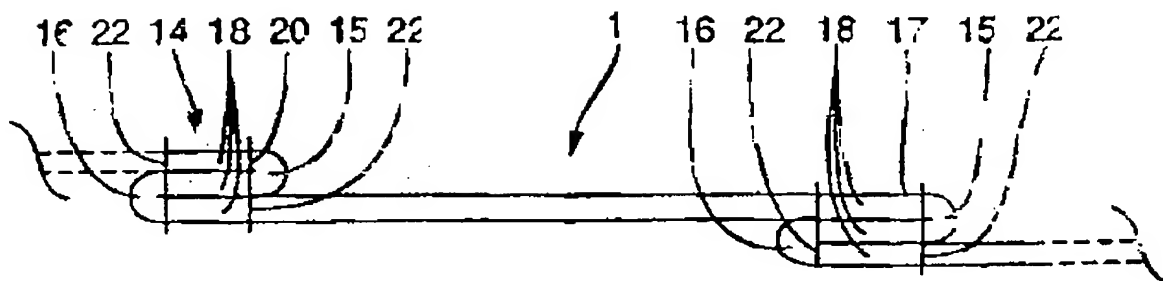
Kim describes a car safety belt with integrated air bag. The belt incorporates an "S-shaped" loop in conjunction with a lanyard that activates the air bag. While the word "loop" is used, the structure is not intended to be permanent nor even to be a loop in the relevant sense. Activation "eliminates the loop." (As set forth in Col. 4, second paragraph.) This "loop" is not, therefore, fixedly attached. In any case, Kim does not describe "folding and affixing the serpentine article in a 'S' curve, such that one of the opposing 'C' sections of the S curve forms the loop." Specifically, look to the "loops" illustration in **Fig. 11** of Kim:



*FIG. 11*

All that this "loop" is supposed to do is provide a releasable amount of material for a car safety harness. It is in no way a handle, and is in no way suggestive of a handle.

Decathlon SA appears to describe S-shaped stitches in horse reins. It does not describe a handle of the type at issue here, nor using one of the C sections of the stitching to form such a handle. **Fig. 3a** of Decathlon is illustrative:



As with Kim, the S-shaped stitches are in no way suggestive of a handle.

Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

**Miller – US 5,581,853**

Claims 5, 16 and 17 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Miller, US 5,581,853. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Miller describes a device for restraining a prisoner in transit. Its loop of strap 18 is separated from the adjustable loop by two buckle or ratcheting devices. That loop is used to control the tension on cam buckle locking clip 16. Miller does not have a handle adjacent to the fixed connection of its buckle. In fact, moving the Miller handle to a position more like that called out in the current claims would make the Miller inappropriate for its intended use as a prisoner restraint. As outlined in MPEP §2143.01, a proposed modification of the prior art cannot render it unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, as would this modification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

**Miller, with Kim or Decathlon SA**

Claims 8-15 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Miller in view of either Kim, US 4,971,354 or Decathlon SA, FR 2,744,997. Applicant respectfully traverses.

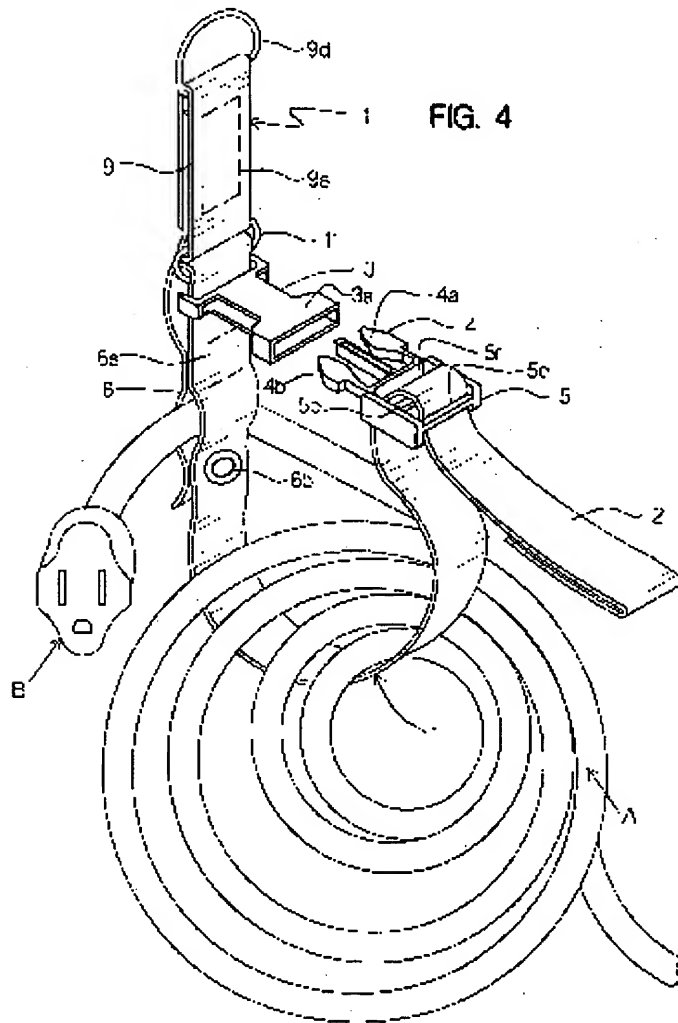
For the reasons outlined above with respect to these citations, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

**Plzak (US 5,295,700, with Lyons (US 5,581,436)**

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Plzak, US 5,295,700, in view of Lyons, US 5,881,436. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Plzak is cited as showing a fastening mechanism for use with a strap. It is Lyons that is asserted to show a fastener used in a context said to be relevant to the current claims.

Specifically, **Fig. 4** of Lyons is cited:



First, the Lyons device uses a detachable fastener, meaning it separates into two parts. Such detachment is critical to the purpose of Lyons, so it cannot be obvious or appropriate to substitute the fastener of the current claims. As outlined in MPEP §2143.01, a proposed modification of the prior art cannot render it unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, as would this modification.

Second, the most analogous feature to the current handle is auxiliary harness 6. It is within the adjustable loop strap 2, not outside. It is, and must be for the purpose of Lyons (holding a segment of an extension cord), too small for use as a handle.

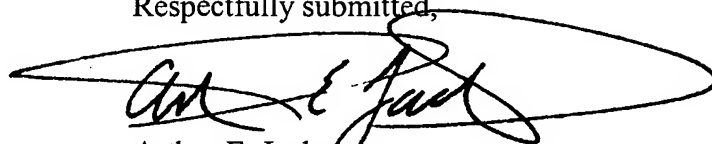
Third, a D-ring or the like is used to hoist the Lyons device. Thus, Lyons teaches nothing like the handle here claimed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

In light of these amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Amendment should be entered, the rejections should be withdrawn, and that the application is in condition for allowance.<sup>2</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur E. Jackson', is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Arthur E. Jackson  
Registration No. 34,354

Law Offices of Arthur E. Jackson  
P.O. Box 88  
Hopewell, NJ 08525  
Arthur E. Jackson  
Phone: 609.333.0308  
Fax: 908.847.0446

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<sup>2</sup> **FEE DEFICIENCY**

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